

New York at Albany, who is also secretary and treasurer of the Society of American Indians, says: 'The Oklahoma situation has been bad enough, without now farther providing means for a wholesale plundering of the estates of minors and incompetents.'

"Another bill (Senate 3904) recently introduced by Senator Johnson, of South Dakota, by its terms proposes to confer upon tribes of Indians the right to select their superintendents and other employees. This would divest the Interior Department of the appointing power, and the Indian Service would be deprived of the wholesome restrictions provided by the civil service. Anyone familiar with Indians can readily imagine how the more dependent full-bloods would thus become the easy prey of conniving mixed-bloods and unscrupulous whites.

"Senator Lane's bill (Senate 4452) proposes legislation to abolish the position of Commissioner of Indian Affairs and his assistants; creating in lieu thereof an independent bureau with three commissioners subject only to the control of Congress. This bill provides that these commissioners shall be selected from candidates to be named by all the Indian tribes of the United States 'congregated in general delegates council.' It is further provided that these commissioners shall exercise all the authority now vested in the Secretary of the Interior and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

"This bill also would deprive the Indian Service of that protection now afforded by the classified civil service and would subject the Indians to the same pernicious influences as the Johnson bill, the chief difference being that one is retail destruction and the other wholesale destruction. One may suppose that the elements most hostile to the Indians will advocate this and similar vicious legislation.

"While the Secretary of the Interior and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs might gladly welcome this relief from the onerous duties imposed upon them in connection with the administration of Indian affairs, yet these officials, moved by the high sense of public duty the Federal Government owes to its dependent Indian wards, have felt impelled to suggest the great danger to the Indians involved in the legislation contemplated by either of the three bills referred to, and have pointed out that existing law is sufficient to enable the Interior Department to place on their own responsibility individual Indians who are qualified to handle their own property.

"As an earnest friend of the Indian race, I trust that neither of these bills, nor any similar legislation, will be enacted."